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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 15 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 14 August 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning a further act of aggression committed on 10 August 1999 by the United States and the United Kingdom against Iraqi civilian installations, in which United States and British aircraft bombed grain storage facilities in Muthanna Governorate in the south of Iraq, damaging the facilities and the grain stored in them. The Minister requests the Secretary-General and the Security Council to intervene with the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom to induce them to desist from the acts of aggression that they are perpetrating against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Identical letters dated 14 August 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that, at 1930 hours on 10 August 1999, United States and British aircraft made a further attack on Iraq, bombing the grain storage facilities in Muthanna Governorate in the south of the country and causing the following damage:

1. Damage to quantities of rice inside the facility;

2. Damage to the walls and roofs of several facilities;

3. Shattering windows;

4. Damage to the false roofs of the facilities.

The area that was the target of the latest attack contained no military objective; there was nothing there but storage facilities for the staple food of the Iraqi people. These criminal acts perpetrated by two permanent members of the Security Council against Iraqi civilian targets and installations are totally at variance with the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law and are a blatant violation of the sovereignty of an independent State Member of the United Nations and a shameless breach of all international treaties. Accordingly, we request you to condemn this barbarous aggression and to intervene with the United States and the United Kingdom to induce them to cease, and not to repeat, these acts, which have become an established policy of the two States concerned as a means of attaining their political objectives, which are to damage Iraq and its independence and to cause injury to the steadfast Iraqi people.

These hostile acts demonstrate once again the falsity of the bragging claim by the United States Administration and the United Kingdom Government that they are anxious to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, which is caused by their own insistence on continuing to impose the unjust embargo on them. Such acts also demonstrate the untruthfulness of their allegations that their attacking aircraft, in violating the sovereignty of Iraq's national airspace, are only targeting military sites and installations.

In condemning these repeated hostile criminal acts against our country, we request the Security Council to intervene with the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom to induce them to desist from the acts of aggression which they are perpetrating against Iraq, to put an end to them and not to repeat them. The Government of the Republic of Iraq regards all the States - whether those whose aircraft carry out these criminal acts or those from whose territory the aircraft take off, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey - as being fully responsible for these hostile actions, for the damage which they have caused and are causing and for the material and moral damage which they have inflicted and are inflicting on the Republic of Iraq.

We also take this opportunity to affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for all the material and moral damage inflicted on Iraq by the perpetration of these hostile actions, which are incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and with the provisions of international law.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq